

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00314 132210Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9217

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STATE/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PL 480 ASSISTANCE IN FY 78

1. FORMIN FRANK FRANCIS DISCLOSED IN REQUESTED MEETING WITH USAID DIRECTOR THAT GOJ WAS NOW ESTIMATING A SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF RICE AND COUNTER FLOUR DURING THE REST OF CLAENDAR 1978. (FYI, THESE PLUS SHORTAGES OF BREAD FLOUR ARE ALREADY IN EVIDENCE). THE GOJ WAS, THEREFORE, SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM CANADA AND THE U.S. IN MEETING THESE SHORTAGES.

2. IN RECENTLY DEVELOPED CANADIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOT YET MADE PUBLIC, JAMAICA WILL BE RECEIVING \$5 MILLION TO FINANCE FISH AND OTHER PRODUCTS IMPORTS AND \$5 MILLION IN GUYANESE RICE. FRANCIS HOPES TO SEE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TODAY TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL HELP ON RICE. FRANCIS IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT CANADIANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO HELP ON COUNTER FLOUR. HE WILL TRY TO KEEP US INFORMED ON OUTCOME OF CONVERSATIONS WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER. HE WILL ADVISE COMMISSIONER OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH U.S. REP.

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PAGE 02 KINGST 00314 132210Z

3. GOJ ESTIMATES THAT RICE SHORTAGE FOR 1978 AMOUNTS TO 11,000 TONS COSTING AROUND U.S. \$4.7 MILLION. CARGO RICE SHORTAGE CALCULATED AT 3,000 TONS; PACKAGE RICE AT 8,000 TONS. ESTIMATED COUNTER FLOUR SHORTAGE IS 45,000 TONS. GIVEN PAST TRADE PATTERNS WITH THE U.S., FRANCIS SAID GOJ WOULD HOPE TO GET U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR AT LEAST 6,000 TONS COSTING APPROXIMATELY U.S.

\$1.5 MILLION.

4. THUS, FRANCIS WAS INQUIRING AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING PL 480 TITLE 1 FUNDING FOR AT LEAST U.S. \$6.2 MILLION FOR RICE AND COUNTER FLOUR. HE INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR RATTRAY WOULD SEEK TO DISCUSS THIS REQUEST WITH SECRETARY TODMAN.

5. GOJ'S CALCULATIONS AND REQUEST ARE BASED ON VIEW THAT UPCOMING U.S. \$10 MILLION PL 480 TITLE I IS NEEDED TO COVER ITS CORN AND WHEAT REQUIREMENTS, THEREBY PRECLUDING USE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR RICE AND COUNTER FLOUR. ALSO PROSPECTIVE FY 79 PL 480 AGREEMENT, EVEN IF AUTHORIZED AND NEGOTIATED EARLY IN FY 79, COULD NOT PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO CALENDAR 1978 SHORTAGES.

6. LION TO BE IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF JANUARY 16 AND WILL DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER PL 480 MATTERS.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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